

In that parent application Claims 10-13 were withdrawn and cancelled subject to a Restriction Requirement set forth on December 3, 1999.

The present new Divisional application is submitted to further prosecute those withdrawn and cancelled Claims 10-13. Thus, by the present Preliminary Amendment Claims 1-9 are cancelled so that Claims 10-13 are pending.

The present Preliminary Amendment also amends the specification to correct for minor grammatical informalities, as in the parent of the present application.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, lines 8-16, with the following text:

--Then, this structure is heated under a proper atmosphere for forming silicide films 10 by the silicon substrate 1 and the polycrystalline silicon forming the gate electrode 5 (see Fig. 49). The composition of these silicide films 10 is expressed as $MSix$, assuming that M represents a metal element forming the metal film 9, for example, where x represents the ratio of silicon atoms to the metal atoms. In this case, a short-time heat treatment (rapid thermal annealing) is generally performed through a lamp annealing furnace. The heat treatment which is performed through the lamp annealing furnace immediately after deposition of the metal film 9 is hereafter referred to as first RTA.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, line 23, through page 3, line 8, with the following text:

--However, when the silicide films formed through the aforementioned process are made of titanium silicide $TiSix$, for example, further heat treatment is performed at a high temperature or over a long time for forming titanium silicide films of $TiSi_2$ having a different composition or structure, since the electric properties of titanium silicide $TiSix$ are insufficient. Also in case of changing the composition or structure of titanium silicide, a short-time heat treatment is generally performed through a lamp annealing furnace. The

[illegible]

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).